



Herb Kohl Educational Foundation, Inc.
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent



***** NEWS RELEASE *****

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Oostburg educator named High School Teacher of the Year

Lucas Siebert of Oostburg High School to receive \$3,000 from Herb Kohl Educational Foundation

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster announced that Lucas Siebert of Oostburg High School has been named the Wisconsin High School Teacher of the Year.

Siebert, who lives in Cascade, teaches technology education to seventh- through 12th-graders. Using real-world engineering and design challenges and drawing on partnerships with business and community leaders, Siebert helps students hone their problem-solving and creative abilities.

Siebert received the news from Burmaster in a surprise award ceremony at his school today. As part of the honor, Siebert will receive a \$3,000 award from U. S. Senator Herb Kohl, through his educational foundation. This is the second year the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation has supported the Wisconsin Teacher of the Year awards. As of August, the foundation has awarded \$6.7 million to Wisconsin educators, students, and schools.

“Luke Siebert is a teacher with a great enthusiasm for helping his students develop the 21st century skills needed for the workforce and higher education,” said Burmaster. “Luke’s students organize themselves into a business-like structure, gaining real-world experience which also plays to the strengths of each individual and helps students take pride in their roles. Luke takes care to praise each learner’s work and to advocate for those who have no other advocates. This is a simple but powerful way to help close achievement gaps between those students and their peers.”

“I know that the future of this state and nation rests in the hands of our students,” said Kohl. “I support our Teacher of the Year awards because they recognize the work of outstanding educators and help ensure that strong, capable, caring teachers are educating tomorrow’s leaders.”

Siebert volunteers in his professional organization and related efforts, and sets classes to work at entering statewide competitions such as Extreme Redesign, Electrathon, and Sustainable Residential Design.

(more)

With this added incentive, the classes delve into research, problem-solving, collaboration, and creativity. Siebert brings his own passion for learning to his classes, including his fervor for “green” engineering: students implement sustainability principles in their work. Siebert’s enthusiasm for learning and for connecting with students on a personal level have elevated the reputation of his position and the school district within the community. Through Siebert’s own tireless networking, advocacy, and fundraising, more than \$14,000 in machinery was acquired for his department. A sprawling new technology education facility will also open soon, featuring a highly functional layout, new furniture, and new equipment.

Siebert holds a degree in technology education from the University of Wisconsin–Stout at Menomonie. Burmaster will honor Siebert on Sept. 18 during her State of Education speech and awards ceremony at the State Capitol in Madison.

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NOTE: This news release will be available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_127b.pdf, after Friday, September 5, 2008. Additional information about the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation is available at <http://www.kohleducation.org/>.